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MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Filling gaps in palliative care: Adelaide nurse awarded prestigious national Fellowship

Improving the quality of palliative (end of life) care services to all terminally ill patients in hospital is the goal of Ms Wendy Jansen, who has just received a NICS Fellowship from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), co-sponsored by the South Australia Health Nursing and Midwifery Office.

Ms Jansen, a Palliative Care Clinical Practice Consultant at Lyell McEwin Hospital in Adelaide, will use the NICS Fellowship to undertake a two-year implementation project to introduce best practice in palliative care in specialist areas which lie outside the palliative care unit.

“Palliative care provides relief from symptoms for people in the last stages of life. It integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of care and offers a support system to families. But terminally ill patients are not necessarily inpatients in a palliative care unit, so the level of palliative care they receive can vary.” explains Ms Jansen.

“The Liverpool End-of-Life Care Pathway is a guide to best practice in palliative care and by ensuring all hospital areas have access to the knowledge this guide provides, we will be able to ensure terminally ill patients receive optimal care, regardless of where they are located in the hospital.”

NHMRC Chief Executive Officer, Professor Warwick Anderson has welcomed this opportunity. “We congratulate Ms Jansen and look forward to working with the SA Health Nursing and Midwifery Office in the important area of palliative care. Our partnership with organisations involved in specific areas of health care, allows us to harness our combined skills and knowledge to provide the highest level of support to our Fellows.”

Ms Jansen will join nine other health professionals from Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia as 2008 NICS Fellows.

Release ends.

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For more information about the other NICS Fellows and the NICS Leadership Program :
www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics

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Note to editors

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research. As part of the NHMRC, the National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) works to improve health care by getting health and medical research into practice.

The NICS Leadership program, which was launched in 2003, directly contributes to closing evidence-practice gaps by supporting health professionals to undertake practical projects that aim to improve health outcomes for people by getting high quality evidence into everyday clinical practice in particular health settings.

The two-year, part-time Fellowships are open to early- to mid-career health professionals across the health care spectrum, including doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, paramedics, health care managers, and policy makers.

The Fellowships provide an annual stipend as well as professional development opportunities, training programs in evidence implementation, mentorship, and opportunities to network with and learn from world-class experts who come to Australia as part of NICS' Visiting Experts program.

Applications for NICS Fellowships 2009 open at the end of May 2008.

South Australia Health

The South Australia Department of Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of all South Australians, with a focus on well-being, illness prevention, early intervention and quality care.

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